

Downtown Transportation Fund Grant

The Downtown Transportation Grant revitalizes public space, stimulates public investment and creates a sense of place, identity and pride in our Vermont Downtowns.

One of the goals for local Vermont Downtown Organizations is to capitalize on the downtown's assets, inspiration, and potential, ultimately creating good public spaces that will promote healthy communities and create a distinctive "first impression."

The Downtown Transportation Fund Grant (DTF) is a financing tool which assists municipalities in paying for transportation-related capital improvements within or serving a Designated Downtown District. Past projects include parking facilities, pedestrian and streetscape improvements and utility relocation.

Established in 1999, and currently funded at \$400,000 annually, the DTF is one of the primary benefits of the Vermont Downtown Program.

	2010	2011	Total
Net New Business created	85	94	179
New Jobs	170	285	435
Public Investment	\$39,033,523	\$22,671,689	\$58,705.21
Total Private Investment	\$12,782,312	\$17,895,405	\$30,677,717
Volunteer Hours	10,500	18,058	28,558
Housing Units in downtown	8	21	29

"The Downtown Transportation Grants have been critically important for Middlebury. In our community, like other VT regional centers, the DTF has funded improvements to our greens and street lighting, our Post Office plaza, curbing and crosswalks and railings and public parking and directory signage - - - practically all the essential streetscape and infrastructure that supports the economic vitality of downtowns and benefits pedestrian and vehicular access! The return on investment in economic development terms is huge, to us and to our businesses. "

- Fred Dunnington, Middlebury Town Planner

Since its inception the program has completed over 79 capital improvement projects in 21 different communities leveraging over \$28 Million. The following is a sampling of the various projects:

- 3 ADA ramps
- 20 plus park benches
- 1 pedestrian bridge
- 3 bus stops
- 70 plus streetlights and park lights
- over 60 crosswalks
- 10,000 feet of new or replaced sidewalk including 800 feet of pervious sidewalk
- 7 parking areas/garages
- 6 bulb outs, islands, or circles to improve traffic flow & control
- 6 plazas/parks
- 1 restored park fountain
- 1 gazebo
- 25 trees planted
- 1 rehabilitated train station

Grant Cycle

- Must be a Designated Downtown & the capital improvements must be in or serving the downtown district
- Deadline: 2nd Monday in January – 1 round per yr.
- Amount: Maximum Award is \$100,000 – 50% match in cash or in-kind.



The Ryan Block in Vergennes - Before



The Ryan Block in Vergennes - After